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REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-49, 51, and 53 are pending. Claims 1, 13, 14, 15, 27, 28, 29, 31, 38, 40, and 51 are independent claims.

Claims 50 and 52 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 3, 13, 14, 29, 38, and 51 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 15-28, 31, 34, 37, 40, 43, 46, and 49 have been allowed. Claims 4-12, 30, 33, 36, 39, 42, 45, 48, 51, and 53 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Of the claims objected to, claim 51 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and, thus, is in condition for allowance. Claim 53 depends directly from claim 51 and, thus, is also in condition for allowance.

Claims 50 and 52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,241,288 to Bergenek. All rejections are respectfully traversed.

As claims 50 and 52 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 50 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is moot.

Claims 1-3, 13, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,282,302 to Hara and newly-cited U.S. Patent No. 3,560,928 to Berger. All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 13, and 14 recite, *inter alia*, "generating a number of successive line segments from an outer circumference side of the pattern curves of the fingerprint-like pattern toward an inner circumference side of the pattern curves in such a manner that each of the line segments intersects a respective one of the pattern curves perpendicularly or substantially perpendicularly, thereby generating two or more auxiliary lines, each of which includes the successive line segments". Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "determining the pattern center based on one or more intersecting points at which the two or more auxiliary lines generated by said auxiliary-line generation section intersect with each other". Independent claims 13 and 14 recite similar features.

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Applicant respectfully submit that Figs. 1-4 of Berger disclose plural orthogonal trajectories that intersect every member of the pattern's ridges at right angles. However, each of these trajectories travels from the center of the pattern toward the outside of the pattern, as indicated by the arrows in Figs. 1-4 of Berger. Further, according to Berger, it shifts its direction at every intersection with the pattern lines so as to form right angles at each pattern line, without intersecting the pattern lines perpendicularly. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Berger is silent about the concept of generating a number of successive line segments from outside to inside the pattern curves, so that each line segment intersects a respective one of the pattern curves perpendicularly or substantially perpendicularly and, as a result, generates two or more auxiliary lines, each including the successive line segments.

Further, Applicant has amended claim 3 to recite that "said auxiliary-line generation section is operable to generate three or more auxiliary lines".

Applicant respectfully submits that none of the asserted citations teaches or suggests at least the aforementioned features of independent claims 1, 13, and 14. Thus, without conceding the propriety of the asserted combination, the asserted combination is likewise deficient.

Claims 29, 32, 35, 38, 41, 44, and 47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Bergenek, Hara, and Berger. All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 29 recites, *inter alia*, "generating a number of successive line segments from an outer circumference side of the pattern curves of the fingerprint-like pattern toward an inner circumference side of the pattern curves in such a manner that each of the line segments intersects a respective one of the pattern curves perpendicularly or substantially perpendicularly, thereby generating two or more auxiliary lines, each of which includes the successive line segments". Independent claim 38 recites similar features.

Applicant respectfully submits that none of the asserted citations teaches or suggests at least the aforementioned features of independent claims 29 and 38. Thus, without conceding the propriety of the asserted combination, the asserted combination is likewise deficient.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1, 13, 14, 29, and 38 under 35 U.S.C. §103 are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims patentably define the present invention over the citations of record. Further, the dependent claims should also be allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims and

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further due to the additional features that they recite. Separate and individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action. However, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to such matters.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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on July 5, 2006

STAAS & HALSEY

By: Leona GardnerDate: July 5, 06